

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY / NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BETHESDA
BRAC INTEGRATION COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 19, 2019**

- Nancy Abeles called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. BIC and audience members introduced themselves.
- Updates from Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator:
 - Check out the County's BRAC site:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/>
 - Matters discussed at BIC meetings are detailed chronologically with background material on the website's "Get Involved" Page:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/brac/getinvolved.asp>
 - **Printable Timeline: Anticipated Construction-Related Traffic Disruptions in Bethesda:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/resources/files/brac_projects_timeline.pdf
 - **BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp
 - Phil reminded the Committee to get traffic and BRAC news and information first by following Montgomery County BRAC on Twitter @BracMoCoMD
- Updates on the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Project at the Medical Center Metro Station -- Frank Kingsley (MCDOT), Phil Sheridan (Clark Construction):
 - News and documentation are on the County's comprehensive Crossing Project web site (<http://md355crossing.com/>) that supplements the County's BRAC web site (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/) and Twitter account (@BRACMoCoMD). The site includes photos of the ongoing construction.
 - All excavation blasting for the 135-foot deep elevator shaft to the Metro mezzanine is complete. Blasting is also complete for the underground tunnel connecting the shaft to the mezzanine. Any further necessary excavation will not require blasting. Breakthrough into WMATA's mechanical facilities has already taken place; and MCDOT expects to break into the Mezzanine in mid to late May.
 - Construction of the pedestrian underpass has been vigorous but completely out of sight because it is underground. Concrete pouring is almost complete. Elevator/stairway construction underway on each end.

- **Work that began March 2018 on improvements to the adjacent intersections of Rockville Pike/Jones Bridge Road and Rockville Pike/Woodmont Avenue/Center Drive (NIH) is nearly complete. We await PEPCO's relocation of utility poles in the road at the northeast corner of the intersection. The redesigned turn from westbound JBR onto northbound MD 355 will be completed after the poles have been removed. Final landscaping is set for the spring.**
<http://md355crossing.com/single-lane-closures-on-rockville-pike-in-march-and-april-near-jones-bridge-road-and-woodmont-avenue/>
- **Complaints have been heard about signaling and signage related to the Dynamic Signaling on southbound Rockville Pike at eastbound Jones Bridge Road. SHA has promised a 60-day review.**
- **Concerns were shared about accessibility issues crossing JBR at the construction site. MCDOT will move the traffic stop bar back from the intersection to provide more room for pedestrians – especially those with wheelchairs - to cross safely.**
- **Update on MCDOT's Platt Ridge Drive Extension Project:** This project will extend Platt Ridge Drive northward from Jones Bridge Road into the Chevy Chase Valley neighborhood, and provide safe ingress and egress with a signalized four-way intersection. Clearing and grubbing is complete and construction of the new road is well under way, with completion anticipated by late spring. The signal placed temporarily on JBR at Spring Valley Road will be removed.
- **SHA INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES:**
 - **MD 185 (Connecticut Ave) at Jones Bridge Road:** Design of the intersection near completion. This will add a new lane on eastbound JBR between Platt Ridge and Connecticut Ave., to create an additional northbound left turn lane onto Connecticut. Because a portion of eastbound JBR traffic west of Connecticut will shift to the south, some lane widening will be required on JBR east of Connecticut to ensure safe traffic movements crossing Connecticut. Meetings with the affected communities, especially Chevy Chase Park on the southeast corner. SHA has modified the original plans to minimize impacts as much as possible on the community. Utilities relocation is expected to begin late spring 2019, after the MCDOT project at Platt Ridge Drive is finished. Roadway construction would begin about a year later. The project will take approximately two years.
 - **SHA Dec. 6, 2018 Community Meeting announcement:**
<http://md355crossing.com/maryland-department-of-transportation-state-highway-administration-mdot-sha-newsletter/>

- **SHA Project Update as of Feb. 19, 2019:**
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/SHA-MD185_JBR-Update-021919.pdf
 - **SHA planned pedestrian Improvements at the intersection:**
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/SHA-MD185_JBR-PedestrianUpgrades-021919.pdf
 - **NOTE: This SHA link provides updates on all the BRAC Intersection Improvement Projects. Use the “Feedback” Tab to ask questions or register complaints:**
<http://apps.roads.maryland.gov/WebProjectLifeCycle/ProjectSchedule.aspx?projectno=MO5932125>
- **NSAB UPDATES: Swing space construction is complete and staff will relocate from interior campus buildings scheduled for demolition to precede eventual construction of hospital “Building C.” NSAB held a public meeting on January 8 on an Environmental Assessment for new facilities construction at USUHS, which is part of the NSAB Master Plan. NSAB always strives to be a good neighbor and is sensitive to matters such as overflow contractor parking and construction-related noise.**
 - **January 8, 2019 announcement of NSAB public meeting on Environmental Assessment:**
<http://md355crossing.com/naval-support-activity-bethesda-to-host-january-8-2019-public-meeting-on-draft-environmental-assessment-transportation-study-for-usuhs-expansion/>
 - **NSAB handout at Jan. 8 meeting (9 pages):**
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac/Resources/Files/NSAB-USUHS_EA_Transpo-Handout-010819.pdf
 - **NOTE: A DOD website offers a good overview of NSAB**
<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/537593/nsab-overview>
 - **Nancy Abeles adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm. The next Committee meeting schedule is for June 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

BRAC Committee members in attendance, February 18, 2018:

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest and Chair of the BRAC Integration Committee
 Steve Aldrich, Montgomery County Planning Department
 Phil Alperson, Montgomery County Military Installations (BRAC) Coordinator
 Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce
 Frank Kingsley, Montgomery County Dept. Of Transportation
 Ed Krauze, Bethesda Parkview Citizens Association
 Richard Levine, Locust Hill Citizens Association
 Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association

Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Home Owners Association
Patrick O'Neil, Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce
Susan Roberts, National Institutes of Health
Leslie Weber, Suburban Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine

Ex officio:

Shawna Lemonds, Naval Support Activity Bethesda
Ken Reichard, Senator Ben Cardin
Joseph Eyong, Congressman Jamie Raskin
Lindsay Kecker (sp?), Delegate Marc Korman
John Doherty, Delegate Al Carr

Other Attendees (signed in):

Tom Evans, MD Dept. of Commerce, Office of Military & Federal Affairs
Allan Glass
Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley
Katie Mencarini, Montgomery County Planning Department
Jeanette Musil, DOD Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA)
Phil Sheridan, Clark Construction Group